



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,081	08/23/2001	Charles Clark Jablonski	42626/238154	4215

7590 07/24/2006

CARSTENS, YEE & CAHOONT
P.O. BOX 802334
DALLAS, TX 75380

EXAMINER

AMAYA, CARLOS DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2836

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/938,081

Applicant(s)

JABLONSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Carlos Amaya

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,6,7,14 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3-5,15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08/23/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/17/2006
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 line 14 recites "said regulator supplies provides" it is not clear what Applicant wants to say. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alston (US 6,327,635) in view of Halim (US 5,514,951).

With respect to claim 1 Alston discloses an interface circuit (Power source selection circuit 210 of Add-on Card, See abstract) for supplying a computer logic circuit (Power source Selection circuit 210) with first and second inputs having first and second predetermined voltage levels (Figure 2 shows power supply 202 providing two different voltages on lines 206 and 208 for the add-on card), respectively, the interface circuit comprising: a first power supply circuit for providing the first input having the first predetermined voltage level in response to a first supply voltage (As shown in figure 2 the first supply voltage is supply to the add-on card 200 via line 214); a regulator (Regulator 308) for generating an output having the second predetermined voltage level

in response to the first supply voltage (Figure 3 shows the regulator supplying a second voltage in response to the first voltage in line 214); and a second power supply circuit for providing an output having the second predetermined voltage level in response to a second supply voltage (Figure 2 shows a second supply line 212 connected to line 208 for supplying the add-on card with a second voltage), wherein said regulator and said second power supply circuit cooperate to provide the second input having the second predetermined voltage level in instances in which the second supply voltage is present (Figure 3 shows that in cooperation with inverter 306, the second supply and the regulator cooperate to supply the second predetermined voltage when the second supply is present).

However, Alston does not disclose expressly that said regulator supplies provides the second input having the second predetermined voltage level in a manner independent of said second power supply circuit in instances in which the second supply voltage is unavailable.

Halim, however, discloses a system for supplying voltage to external devices, such as cards in personal computers. VCC 100 represents voltages supply by a personal computer having first and second predetermined voltages. The voltage regulator shown in figure 1 is formed of transistor 115, amplifier 120 and resistors R1 and R2; the regulator supplies an input having a predetermined voltage to IA VCC node 151.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adjust Alston regulator to provide an input having the

predetermined voltage level base on the voltages supply by a system as disclose by Halim; Halim's regulator could be used in connection with Alston invention to provide the second input even if when second voltage supply is unavailable. Since Regulators are known to maintain a constant voltage level, thus one would have envisioned using a regulator to cooperate with the second supply line to produce a second predetermined voltage regardless of the input voltages.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to provide a second predetermined voltage that is different than any other input voltages supply to a load/card, for the purpose of meeting certain voltage requirements of the circuitry in the card, that would otherwise be damaged when a different voltage than a predetermined voltage is supplied.

With respect to claim 2 Alston discloses an interface circuit according to Claim 1 wherein said regulator provides the second input having the second predetermined voltage level in instances in which the second supply voltage is unavailable (Figure 2 shows the regulator providing the second predetermined voltage when the second power supply is unavailable, thus it would have been obvious to use a regulator for the purpose of providing a second input).

With respect to claim 6 Alston discloses an interface circuit according to Claim 1 wherein said second power supply circuit comprises an isolation circuit (Isolation provided by Switches 310 and 312) for permitting the second supply voltage to be provided to the computer logic circuit without permitting the computer logic circuit to drive the second supply voltage (since the switches are ON when supplying a second

voltage, and are OFF otherwise the switches provide protection against a voltage from the Integrated circuit 201).

With respect to claim 7 Alston discloses an interface circuit according to Claim 1 wherein the interface circuit and the computer logic circuit are mounted upon an adapter card (Add-on Card) that is capable of being plugged into an adapter slot to thereby establish electrical contact with at least a first power rail providing the first supply voltage (Column 3 lines 31-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alston (US 6,327,635).

With respect to claim 14 Alston discloses a method for supplying a computer logic circuit (Power Source Selection Circuit 210) with first and second inputs having first and second predetermined voltage levels (Figure 2 shows power supply 202 providing two different voltages on lines 206 and 208 for the add-on card), respectively, the method comprising: providing the computer logic circuit with the first input having the first predetermined voltage level based upon a first supply voltage (On Figure 2 the

first supply voltage is supply to the add-on card 200 via line 214); determining if a second supply voltage is present (Driver 302, Column 4 lines 35-37); providing the computer logic circuit with the second input having the second predetermined voltage level (One of the voltages provided to the selection circuit is selected among the voltages provided), wherein providing the second input comprises providing the second input having the second predetermined voltage level based upon both the first and second supply voltages if the second supply voltage is present (The voltages are tested and if both voltages are present the second (low voltage) is selected), and wherein providing the second input comprises providing the second input having the second predetermined voltage level based only upon the first supply voltage if the second supply voltage is unavailable (If only the second voltage is present than this voltage is selected having the second predetermined voltage).

With respect to claim 17 Alston discloses a method according to Claim 14 further comprising isolating the second supply voltage and the computer logic circuit by permitting the second supply voltage to be provided to the computer logic circuit without permitting the computer logic circuit to drive the second supply voltage (Figure 2 shows the computer logic circuit (Power Source Selection Circuit 210) comprising of switches 310 and 312, this switches isolate the second supply voltage, thus it enables protection to the computer logic circuit, without letting the circuit drive the second power supply on line 212).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 8-13 are allowable.

6. Claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose a "an interface circuit for supplying a computer logic circuit with an input having first and second portions that are each at the same predetermined voltage level" and "a regulator for generating an output having the predetermined voltage level in response to a first supply voltage, said regulator providing the output as the first portion of the input to the computer logic circuit" and "a power supply circuit capable of providing an output having the predetermined voltage level in response to a second supply voltage, wherein said second power supply circuit comprises a power switching circuit for providing the output of said power supply circuit as the second portion of the input to the computer logic circuit". Along with the remaining of the claim.

7. Claims 3-5, 15-16 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose "an interface circuit wherein the second input has first and second portions with different tolerances, and wherein said regulator is capable of supplying the first portion of the second input and said second power supply circuit is capable of supplying the second portion of the second input."

9. Claims 4-5 are allowable, because they depend on an allowable claim 3.

10. Claim 15 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not disclose "providing a first portion of the second input with a first tolerance based upon the first supply voltage; and providing a second portion of the second input


with a second tolerance based upon the second supply voltage." Along with the remaining of the claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner's supervisor Brian Sircus who can be reached on (571)272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CA


CHAU N. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER